

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes

Office of Public Instruction

1300 11th Avenue Conference Room, Helena

June 12-13, 2008

Members in Attendance: Barb Rolf, Terry Galle, Ron Fuller (Thursday), Sharon Lindstrom (Thursday), Carroll DeCouteau, Susan Gunn, Dave Mahon, Samantha Hendricks, Terry Teichrow, Denise Herman, Coral Beck

Excused Members: Ken Miller, Jackie Emerson, Ron Fuller (Friday), Amy McCord, Wanda Grinde, Sharon Lindstrom (Friday)

Non-Members in Attendance: Tim Harris, Bob Runkel, Dick Trerise, Francisco Román, Sara Casey, Marlene Wallis, Tara Ferriter-Smith

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Chairperson Barb Rolf called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members and guests introduced themselves. Chairperson Rolf requested that the Panel members review the Proposed Agenda. Following review of the Proposed Agenda, Dave Mahon moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Sharon Lindstrom seconded the motion and the motion passed. The April 24-25, 2008, meeting minutes were reviewed and Ron Fuller moved to accept the minutes and Terry Teichrow seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved as written.

OPI Report

AIM

Bob Runkel noted that there has been significant progress with the AIM program. He is now more confident that we will be able to roll out the program for use in the schools sometime this coming school year. Testing is now being done to make sure the software meets the project requirements; to ensure that the product has included the changes we felt were needed for our purpose.

Testing of AIM is a time-consuming process. Infinite Campus, the AIM software vendor, has made the first set of changes and more will be needed before we can roll out the program. We initially hoped to open the product to pilot schools in May to the six schools interested in piloting the program. Unfortunately, there has been another delay and we do not expect the pilot to occur until late summer. Bob said that perhaps some schools will use their employees this summer, provided the OPI can help the school compensate the employees for training/testing.

Bob anticipates that there will be some criticism of the program, especially when it is first rolled out. However, once the system is in use and people are more comfortable with the way it works, the criticism should diminish.

Barb Rolf said it appears there is lots of information to enter into the system.

Bob said there is lots of work to do and we are working with other states that are using Infinite Campus; i.e., Maine, South Dakota, Kentucky, and Bureau of Indian Education.

Personnel

Tim Harris informed the Panel that a decision has been made for a replacement for Marilyn Pearson, but he is waiting for the final approval from the Superintendent.

Highly Qualified Teachers

Bob Runkel informed the Panel that Montana has recently received the results of the NCLB Title II monitoring. The report cites a concern with Montana's compliance with the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provisions of the NCLB, including the method that we use to collect data on the number of classes taught by teachers that meet the federal HQT definition. Implementing the actions necessary to meeting the requirements for HQT for multi-subject special education teachers, as outlined in the monitoring report, will be a big challenge with tight timelines. These actions will include evaluations of the HQT status of all special education teachers, including revisions on how we collect data in our Annual Data Collection (ADC).

Meeting the requirements for HQT is essential for many reasons, including the possibility that our Title I and Title II grants could have a condition placed on the grants if this issue is not resolved. A condition on the grants could lead to the loss of federal funding.

The OPI is in the process of putting together an action plan to meet the requirements of HQT. The NCLB requires that special education teachers meet the same level of knowledge of core academic subjects as do the general education teachers. Bob also noted that the required changes to the data collections program for reporting the HQT status of teachers will need to be re-engineered to meet the unique NCLB requirements for special education teachers.

Higher Education Consortium

Tim reported on the Higher Education Consortium held in May. Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) continues to be of great concern for the teacher preparation programs. The Consortium received a thorough training in the IRIS modules available through Vanderbilt University. The modules are incorporated into many of the preservice classes at the different institutions. Linda Christianson retired from Montana State University Billings and the new Consortium chair will be Trent Atkins from the University of Montana.

Demonstration of IRIS

Dick Trerise gave a PowerPoint presentation of IRIS, which is Idea '04 and Research for Inclusive Settings. Dick provided materials regarding IRIS to the Panel members. The IRIS materials address topics such as Assessment, Behavior, Differentiated Instruction, Disability, Math, Reading, Literacy and Language Arts, Response to Intervention (RTI) and School Improvement.

Election of Officers

The election of officers was moved from Friday to Thursday. The two positions available for election are Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.

Chairperson Barb Rolf asked for nominations for the Vice-Chairperson. Terry Teichrow nominated Sharon Lindstrom, Terry Galle seconded the motion and Ron Fuller moved to close nominations. The nomination of Sharon Lindstrom for Vice-Chairperson passed.

Chairperson Barb Rolf asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Terry Teichrow nominated Denise Herman, Sharon Lindstrom seconded the motion, and Ron Fuller moved to close nominations. The nomination of Denise Herman for Secretary passed.

Friday, June 13, 2008

Chairperson Barb Rolf opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Montana Level of Determination

Montana submitted its Annual Performance Report (APR) for Federal Fiscal Year 2005 (school year 2005-2006) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). There are four determination categories, established by the IDEA. They are: Meets Requirements; Needs Assistance; Needs Intervention; and Needs Substantial Intervention. Following review of Montana's report, the OSEP reported that Montana was placed in the Needs Assistance category. This determination was based on Montana's data and information, including the APR and revised State Performance Plan (SPP). The Panel received a copy of the *Montana Part B FFY 2006 SPP/APR Response Table*. This table shows the status of APR Data/SPP Revision Issues and OSEP's acceptance or non-acceptance of the revisions.

Recognition of Panel Members

Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, on behalf of the Superintendent, thanked the Panel members for their participation on the Panel and their dedication in improving results for all children. He said that the members were in an interesting time for Special Education and that they have been an effective Advisory Panel. He noted that the Division of Special Education listens to their advice.

Bud recognized the following outgoing members:

Barb Rolf, outgoing Chairperson, Vision Specialist for the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, and represents the category *Other State Agencies Involved in the Financing or Delivery of Related Services to Children with Disabilities*. Barb served as the Chair-Elect for one year and has been a member of the Special Education Advisory Panel for three years. She served as a strong Chairperson and kept the Panel running smoothly to ensure that the Panel met their required responsibilities and timelines.

Terry Teichrow, Education Program Specialist for Homeless Children and Youth, Office of Public Instruction, represented the category *Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act*. Terry brought insights to the Panel regarding homeless children and

youth. Terry is well respected by the Panel and provided many good ideas related to programs and what works for students.

Dave Mahon, Superintendent, Huntley Project K-12 Schools, represented the category *State/Local Administrator*. Dave served as the Panel Secretary this year. The work involved with Special Education in Montana requires assistance with administrators and we relied on Dave for his counsel and wisdom. Dave has done a good job of representing administrators and we thank him for his extra time and commitment.

Coral Beck, Child and Family Services, represented the category *State Child Welfare Agency Responsible for Foster Care*. Coral brought a strong presence to the Panel from the perspective of Foster Care. Her thoughtful inquisitiveness and perception have provided the foundation for meaningful discussions and program direction.

Bud presented the outgoing members with appreciation plaques.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Orientation
New Members
New Staff
District Levels of Determination
AIM Update
YBGR Update
HQT Update
IRIS

Adjourn

Terry Teichrow moved to adjourn the meeting, Denise Herman seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.